

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 MCT-01 USSS-00 IO-13 /098 W

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R 101327Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6920

INFO ZEN/AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA 290

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJ: LIBYAN EVENTS

1. PROMINENT LIBYAN COVERAGE IN CAIRO PRESS SEPTEMBER 10
INCLUDING REPORT QADHAFI WILL RESIGN. HIJACKING TRAIL USED FOR
FURTHER ATTACKS ON TRIPOLI , WHILE EDITORIALS BLASTED LIBYAN -SYRIAN
STATEMENT CRITICIZING EGYPT.

2. PRESS DEVOTED MAJOR COVERAGE, MEASURABLY EXCEEDING
REPORTING ON DEATH OF MAO, TO REPORT FROM UNIDENTIFIED
NEWS AGENCIES IN TRIPOLI CLAIMING QADHAFI WILL STEP DOWN
NEXT JANUARY AS A RESULT OF "SERIOUS
DETERIORATION" OF INTERNAL SITUATION IN LIBYA. QADHAFI
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STRINGENT SECURITY MEASURES CITED AS EVIDENCE. QADHAFI SAID

NOW TO BE PROMINENTLY CARRYING HIS OWN PISTOL, "FIRST TIME IN HISTORY" THAT SUCH A MEASURE TAKEN BY A HEADY OF STATE. "OBSERVERS" REPORT QADHAFI TO BE VERY NERVOUS; HE BELIEVES "THREATS" AGAINST HIM ARE REAL AND HAS GIVEN UP DRIVING HIS CAR AROUND THE CAPITAL AND SUSPENDED VISITS TO THE SUBURBS. SECURITY MEASURES HAVE INCREASED IN THE WAKE OF TERRORISM AGAINST EGYPT, INCREASE "FEELING OF HATRED" BY LIBYANS, AND ENDURING EFFECTS OF BENGHAZI AND TRIPLI UNIVERSITY DISORDERS, LAST JANUARY. HE NOW DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON BEDOUINS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION.

3. PRESS ALSO NOTES THAT ALTHOUGH FORMER FORMIN AL-HUNI NOT IN LIBYA, LIBYAN AUTHORITIES HAVE SENT HIS PASSPORT TO ITALIAN, FRENCH AND GERMAN EMBASSIES FOR ENTRY VISAS.

4. PROSECUTION IN HIJACKING TRIAL CONTINUES TO ATTACK LIBYA, ALTHOUGH REPORTS NOTE THAT DEFENDANTS CLAIM THEY HAD NO LINK WITH LIBYA AND THAT EGYPTIAN OFFICERS AMONG PASSENGER IN HIJACKED AIRLINEER CAN ATTEST TO GOOD TREATMENT ACCORDED PASSENGERS. PROSECUTION SAID STATEMENTS BY ACCUSED LEADER OF HIJACKERS ALL THAT COULD BE EXPECTED OF A LIAR, INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST, ANARCHIST AND HARDENED CRIMINAL. DEFENSE COUNCIL "AGREED TO PROSECUTION CONDEMNATION OF CRIME AGAINST EGYPT", COUNTRY WHICH HAD SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE. "DEFENSE ASKED ONLY" THAT TRIAL BE ADJOURNED TO GIVE IT TIME TO PREPARE ITS CASE. TRIAL RESUMES SEPT 12.

6. AKHBAR AND GUMHURRIYA EDITORIALS DEVOTED TO "CLOWNS OF ARAB POLITICS" WHO REALLY BEHIND FAILURE OF CONFEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLIC. LIBYIAN AND SYRIAN REGIMES ARE BIRDS OF A FEATHER WHO ARE INCAPABLE OF FOOLING THE ARAB WORLD. THEIR LAMENT OVER FRACTURING OF ARAB UNITY AND CAR IS ONLY LAMENT OVER "FAILURE OF CONSPIRACY" DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS. MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO12208
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760343-0311
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760974/aaaacgl.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBYAN EVENTS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006